

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application, in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, are respectfully requested.

Applicants and their attorney wish to express their gratitude to Examiner Anderson and to Examiner Weiss for the courtesy and assistance they extended during the recent personal interview. As stated on the Examiner Interview Summary Record, during the interview, Applicants agreed to amend the claims in order to clarify that the areas of reduced permeability are created from a film forming composition and that the discrete areas are in the shape of bands.

It is believed that the claims as now amended satisfy all of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentably distinct over the prior art of record. In particular, as also discussed during the interview, neither Hampl, Jr. '775 nor Musillo disclose or suggest wrappers having discrete areas of reduced permeability that define a gradually changing permeability profile.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as presently amended are patentably distinct over the prior art of record. Thus, it is submitted that the present application is in complete condition for allowance and favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested. Examiner Anderson is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at his convenience should any questions or issues remain after consideration of the present

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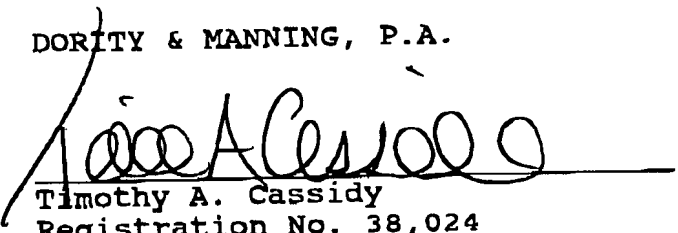
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response to permit early resolution of the same.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment
to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully submitted,

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